

(HHS/FDA)

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From: Julia Linnell <linnell@ikos.com> on 08/23/99 05:59 PM GMT

To: President@gateway

cc:

Subject: Request for Legislation to Label Genetically Engineered Food

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[Connection Information]

CLIENT: 137.103.105.194 [137.103.105.194]
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[Sender Information]

PERSONAL-NAME: Julia Linnell
EMAIL-ADDRESS: linnell@ikos.com
ORGANIZATION:
RELATIONSHIP:
STREET-ADDRESS: 5 Reservoir Road
CITY: Hopkinton
STATE-PROVINCE: MA
ZIP-CODE: 01748
COUNTRY: US

[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Other
TOPIC: Legislation
AFFILIATION: Private Citizen
SUBJECT: Request for Legislation to Label Genetically Engineered Foods

[Message]

Dear President Clinton,

I am very concerned that I am eating genetically engineered foods without being told that fact. I am

sending you this letter to insist that legislation be passed into law that will require genetically

engineered foods to be labeled as such, regardless of whether the food is in its whole form or as an

ingredient in processed foods.

Genetically engineered crops are not the same as those produced by typical hybridization. The Food

& Drug Administration (FDA), the United States Department of

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Agriculture (USDA), and the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are being negligent in protecting the rights of the

American public in regards to genetically engineered foods. I am asking you to act legislatively to

stop these agencies' neglect of public interest.

The FDA is allowing genetically engineered foods to come to market unlabeled although public

opinion polls show a majority of Americans want them labeled. (81% in a January 11, 1999 Time

magazine poll.) Last year the USDA even proposed to include genetically engineered foods in the

definition of organic! The EPA is allowing the Bt bacteria (a valuable tool for organic agriculture) to

be genetically engineered into the structure of plants. This could seriously undermine organic

agriculture and cause significant human health and environmental problems.

Varieties of potatoes and corn are currently being sold that have been genetically engineered to

contain the Bt toxin (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). The Bt toxin stays in the cell structure of the plants and

is deadly enough to kill insects. We are being told these foods are safe for human consumption, but

we have heard that before about DDT, EDB, and many other pesticides later shown to be cancer

causing. I do not want to eat genetically engineered foods that contain the Bt toxin. Nor do I want to

eat "Roundup Ready" soybeans or other future products such as tomatoes that contain the gene

from a fish! But without labeling I cannot avoid it. So I am asking you to pass legislation to label all

genetically engineered foods. Similar labeling legislation has already been passed in Europe and

Australia.

Please write back to me and let me know if you intend to work to pass this legislation. Thank you!

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Sincerely,
Julia Linnell
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Hopkinton, MA 01748